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Serial No.: 10/696,197

Docket No.: 03283-PA (0170.0047)

Inventors: Parker, et al

## CLAIMS

1. (canceled).
2. (canceled).
3. (currently amended): A composition useful for providing a fire protective coating on surfaces by immobilizing water therein and producing evaporative cooling ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of about 5-15% Attapulgitic clay, about 1-10% magnesium sulfate with water to make 100%.
4. (currently amended): The composition of claim 3 wherein the composition ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of about 13.5-15% Attapulgitic clay, about 1% magnesium sulfate and the balance water to make 100%.
5. (previously presented): The composition of claim 3 wherein the Attapulgitic clay is purified micronized self-dispersing hydrous Attapulgitic clay.
6. (currently amended): A method for preventing the advance of a fire and creating a fire-barrier comprising applying to the area to be protected from the advancing fire a fire-barrier composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of fire-barrier effective amounts of a composition of Attapulgitic clay, Epsom salt and water.
7. (currently amended): The method of claim 6 wherein the fire-barrier composition ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of, on a total weight basis 5-15% purified Attapulgitic clay, 1-15% Epsom salt and water to make 100%.
8. (previously presented): The method of claim 6 wherein the fire-barrier composition

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on a total weight basis ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of about 13.5 to 15% of micronized self-dispersing hydrous Attapulgite clay, about 1% Epsom salt and about 85% of water.

9 (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the composition applied to the area to be protected is a quarter of an inch or greater.

10. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the area to be protected is around a land-fill.

11. (original): The method of claim 6 wherein the area to be protected is the area around burning tires.

12. (canceled).

13. (currently amended): A method for fighting a fire ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of applying to said fire a composition of Attapulgite clay, Epsom salt and water in amounts effective to fight said fire.